Export growth in gems and jewellery

*304. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council expects around 10 per cent export growth in the current fiscal year over the previous fiscal year;

(b) if so, the amount proposed to be netted out of the exports;

(c) the details of thrust markets; and

(d) the status of exports of cut and polished diamonds during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current financial year, endeavour of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is to achieve the target of US $ 9992 million from the export of gem & jewellery.

(c) Thrust markets of GJEPC for the export of gem & jewellery continues to be the USA, Hon Kong, Belgium, Israel & UAE. However, GJEPC always takes steps to explore new markets.

(d) As per data made available by Directorate General of Comercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the exports of cut & polished diamonds during the first quarter of the current financial year *i.e.* April, 2003 to June, 2003 has been Rs. 7610 crores (provisional) as against Rs. 7987 crores during the corresponding period of the last year.

Growth centres in Andhra Pradesh

*305. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start more growth centres in Andhra Pradesh to develop industrially backward areas in the State;

(b) if so, the areas identified for the purpose;